



Myrtle Beach Days & Nights

By Katie McElveen

When it comes to showing visitors a good time, the Myrtle Beach Area—with its glorious coastline, endless array of activities and options galore for dining and lodging—doesn't mess around.

Where to stay

Six indoor and outdoor pools, three lazy rivers and a kiddie pool that doubles as a water park for the younger set, as well as two- and three-bedroom condos make Compass Cove a great choice for families who want to be on the beach and in the action. At the elegant Myrtle Beach Marriott Resort at Grande Dunes, the beds are dressed with luxurious duvets and down comforters while the resort's Hibiscus Spa offers a full range of massages, facials and other bliss-inducing services. There's golf and tennis on-site, too. With 116 rooms and suites, Hampton Inn and Suites Oceanfront is smaller than some of its neighbors, but it has plenty of amenities. Choose from regular rooms or suites with kitchens and separate bedrooms.





Things to do

Get face-to-face with the sharks, eels and octopi that inhabit the 750,000-gallon ocean habitat at Ripley's Aquarium where you can also touch prehistoric-looking horseshoe crabs and several varieties of rays. Other exhibits showcase bright tropical fish from the south Pacific and Indian oceans, and menacing piranhas from the Amazon. After emerging from the deep, stroll through the shops,



restaurants and other attractions at the adjoining Broadway at the Beach. If you dare, speed through the sharp turns at NASCAR® SpeedPark. Or take a spin on a few of the classic amusement park rides (from the now-closed Myrtle Beach Pavilion) at the Pavilion Nostalgia Park. And don't forget that the region is home to 120 golf courses.

The Myrtle Beach Area/Grand Strand has 60 miles of beaches to explore, including Myrtle Beach State Park. Cast a line into the surf or from a pier, hike through an ancient maritime forest, visit a butterfly garden or just enjoy the sand and surf.

Where to eat

Local artwork decorates the walls at Collector's Café where offerings such as crab cakes with Thai cucumber salsa grace the plates. Families love Villa Romana for meals like gnocchi with mushroom cream sauce—and the accordion player is legendary for his repertoire. For traditional seafood there's the Sea Captains House which serves up fried fish, oysters and other delicacies with homemade desserts in a homey cottage by the sea. Dagwood's is the place to go for gigantic sandwiches, but for lunch on the beach, head to Bummz where tables are laden with burgers, fries, salads and ice cold drinks, just steps from the sand. 🌴



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